

1981. Nevertheless, this represents the unchallenged comprehensive statement on paediatric respiratory disease and should therefore be welcomed.

A D MILNER

**Daily Living with a Handicapped Child.** By D Millard. Pp 103: £8.95 paperback. London: Croom Helm, 1984.

This book discusses a philosophy and some of the practical aspects of management for handicapped children. It is intended for parents but I doubt whether most parents will find it easy to read as it tends to talk about them rather than to them. I wish the sections on bath aids, seating, and feeding cerebral palsied infants were as thorough and as well illustrated as the sections on feeding aids and clothing.

Aids to communication and environmental control systems are neglected. Continence and spina bifida is no longer so dependent on diversionary surgery as is implied. The use of catheters is not discussed and there is an underestimate of the potential for bowel continence. The paraphrased medical advice to parents of children with epilepsy, asthma, and cystic fibrosis would be disputed by many doctors.

The need for physically handicapped children to learn to adapt to a world and family which do not view them as central is well put.

The cartoons of the smoking mother reading a magazine and dribbling the contents of the feeding bottle over her baby on to the carpet in front of the expectant cat, and of the father, empty beer glass in hand swinging his legs on a bar stool are patronising and offensive. Pictures of seating systems would have been more useful.

The tendency of therapists to tell parents that certain activities are *vital* and others should *never* occur diminishes credibility. The book may be of interest to child development centre libraries. It needs firmer editing, more information, and a contemporary system for giving full references.

I A MCKINLAY

**Neurological Evaluation of Infants and Children.** By H W Baird and E C Gordon. (Clinics in Developmental Medicine 4/85). Pp 250: £12.00 hardback. London: Spastics International Medical Publications (Blackwell Scientific), 1983.

This book describes the authors' approach to assessing a young child presenting with a possible neurological problem. The emphasis is on defining the child's problems rather than subsequent management. The authors make the point very convincingly that neurological examination in young children is not adult neurology scaled down. The writing style has the feel of personal experience and avoids long Germanic constructions. The detailed handling of the consultation, child, and family is discussed, including the gleanings of as much information as possible before the actual meeting, the avoidance of undressing and weighing young children at the beginning, and hints on making a relationship with young children. The importance of observing without handling is stressed as is the need to vary the order of items according to changing mood.

The authors are very specific about details of the neurological examination and how to evaluate children with particular types of presentation, for example fits, possible cerebral palsy, speech and language problems, developmental delay, and behaviour disorders. No photographs of patients are included but good quality line drawings illustrate the neurological signs. Although the newborn and floppy infant are covered, these two subjects are not dealt with in great detail because they each have separate volumes in this series. The book ends by pointing out that parents need a summary and counselling, and that the conclusions must be communicated to the many agencies who may be involved with the child and family.

I recommend this as a relatively inexpensive book about the art as well as the science of paediatric neurology for general paediatricians, paediatricians in training, and paediatricians in the community.

A WHITELAW

**Extrahepatic Biliary Atresia.** Edited by F Daum. Pp 280: Sfr 122 hardback. New York: Marcel Dekker, 1983.

This monograph reports papers presented at a two day symposium held in November 1981 in New York, on a subject which because of continuing advances in both pathogenesis and management remains highly topical.

No doubt the drinking together of so many authorities provided the opportunity for a useful exchange of ideas and may even have catalysed fresh researches. One

must say, however, that for the reviewer this documentary account seems a rather disappointing reflection, being published after a gestation of elephantine duration and consisting of rather brief and somewhat shallow already published papers (some long since). Nor can the reader eavesdrop on the conference discussion periods, which for those with a special interest are often of greatest value and the more revealing part of any meeting. In this particular respect the editor and publisher have not produced a work of the standard that we are accustomed to seeing from the CIBA Foundation (for example, CIBA Foundation Symposium No 70, New Series, Excerpta Medica 1979).

Having said this, the book will provide for those wishing it a rapid, though superficial overview of biliary atresia. Included are sections on the aetiology and evaluation of biliary atresia, including the exciting but hitherto unconfirmed work on causation by reovirus 3—already published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* in 1982. The results of hepatoporoenterostomy are also presented with data from Japan (Sendai), London, and the United States. There is also a short section on the contribution of hepatic transplantation in childhood with its greatly improved prognosis after the introduction of cyclosporin A in the late 1970s. The nutritional aspects of management are also discussed (in 36 pages) and finally there are eight short research papers mostly on topics related to cholestasis. Although this work is well produced and illustrated, it is not a book many will wish to purchase because of the limitations outlined above; virtually all of the information is readily accessible elsewhere.

JOHN GLASGOW

## Shorter notices

**Case Presentations in Paediatrics.** By V Joss and S J Rose. Pp 264: £6.95 paperback. London: Butterworth, 1983.

This lively and entertaining book contains 77 cases ranging from the commonplace to the esoteric. Written primarily for candidates for membership of the Royal College of Physicians, it enlivens coffee time discussions for all paediatric junior staff.

The cases are 'grey' enough to encourage controversy, but the well referenced discussion after each case settles almost all the diagnostic arguments.